

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08
COME-00 FCC-01 OTPE-00 BIB-01 /065 W
-----106066 211233Z /14

P R 211219Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6017
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03121

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETEL GW PEPR
SUBJECT: RADIOS: RFE/RL HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION
REQUEST AND FRG INTEREST IN 209 KHZ

REFS: (A) BONN 2991; (B) BONN 2925

1. DURING A MEETING WITH THE CHARGE ON OTHER MATTERS,
FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR BLECH ON FEBRUARY 20
BROUGHT UP THE US REQUEST FOR UPGRADING THE HOLZKIRCHEN
TRANSMITTERS, MENTIONING AT THE SAME TIME THE FRG
INTEREST IN OBTAINING THE 209 KHZ FREQUENCY.

2. BLECH SAID THE FRG WISHED TO HAVE A POSITIVE
ATTITUDE TOWARDS OUR HOLZKIRCHEN REQUEST. HE WAS
AWARE OF THE ADMINISTRATION INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL AND
ALSO OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST. HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD,
HE ADDED, THAT RFE/RL AND VOA WERE COMPLETELY SEPARATE
ENTITIES AND THAT THE TWO ISSUES WERE TREATED SEPARATELY
IN WASHINGTON. THE FRG DID NOT, HOWEVER, CONSIDER THIS
LATTER FACTOR VERY SIGNIFICANT WHEN WEIGHED AGAINST THE
FRG DESIRE TO HAVE 209 KHZ, WHICH IS PRESENTLY NOT BEING
USED.

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3. BLECH ALSO SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT THERE WAS INTEREST
IN USING 209 FOR PRIVATE, COMMERCIAL BROADCASTING.
DESCRIBING THIS AS A "FRIGHTENING PROSPECT," HE POINTED
OUT THAT THE QUESTION OF PRIVATE RADIO WAS A SERIOUS
INTERNAL PROBLEM FOR THE FRG. HE STATED IN THE
STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT THERE WAS NO CHANCE THAT

THE FRG WOULD AGREE TO SUCH A PRIVATE VENTURE.

4. BLECH DID NOT MAKE A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL, BUT HE MADE
IT CLEAR THAT WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE US TO
PERMIT THE FRG TO USE 209 KHZ WOULD MAKE IT MUCH
EASIER FOR THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO PERSUADE THE CHANCELLERY
TO APPROVE OUR HOLZKIRCHEN REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

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